

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5215

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF IRELAND

REF: DAWKINS-SORENSEN TELECON, DUBLIN 1626

1. ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND SPELLED OUT IN
PARA 6 - 8 OF SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH DEPT HOLDS.

2. AS INDICATED IN DUBLIN 1626, DECISION TO FORM COUNCIL IS
REGARDED BY DUBLIN AS MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF TRIPARTITE
CONFERENCE. IN COMMENTING ON COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE
STATED, "WE BELIEVE THE FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE AND
ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF CONSENSUS POLITICS THROUGHOUT IRELAND AND
THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE." HE ADDED THAT THE PURPOSE
FOR WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS SET UP AND FOR WHICH IT MUST SERVE "IS
TO BUILD UP STEADILY A SPIRIT OF GREATER CONFIDENCE AND BETTER
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIFFIERENT SECTIONS AND HISTORIAL
TRADITIONS IN IRELAND/.....WE PRAY GOD THAT THE COUNCIL MAY BE AN
INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH PEACE AND RECONCILIATION MAY COME TO ALL
THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND." FONMIN FITZGERALD SAID HE BELIEVED
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COUNCIL WOULD BE "STEPPING STONE TO UNITY."

3. IRISH GOVERNMENT CLEARLY HOPES THAT COUNCIL A) WILL DEFUSE
EXTREME REPUBLICAN DEMANDS FOR UNIFICATION; B) WILL
INSTITUTIONALIZE SOUTHERN INTEREST IN AFFAIRS OF
CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTH, C) WILL UNDERTAKE INCREASINGLY
SUBSTANTIVE TASKS INVOLVING BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH, AND
D) WILL EVENTUALLY (OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL AND PROBABLY MANY
YEARS) TAKE ON INCREASINGLY FEDERAL ASPECTS. WHETHER IN LONG RUN
COUNCIL WILL EVOLVE AS GOI HOPES, FOR IMMEDIATE PRESENT MOST
SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF COUNCIL IS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT
IN FINELY BALANCED PACKAGE WITHOUT WHICH EXECUTIVE IN NORTH
COULD NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND AND TWO COMMUNITIES BE BROUGHT
INTO A WORKING RELATIONSHIP. SORENSON

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